effect will not affect adversely any employee to whom these rules apply. The initial fixation of pay in revised scale in respect of Central Government employees belonging to Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' who opt to switch over to revised scale from a date later than 1-1-1986, is to be done in accordance with the provisoins contained in rule 9 of Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986. The instructions issued by C&AG intend merely to clarify the rule position and are not contradictory to the Explanatory Memorandum appended to the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986.

Bonus to Central Government employees

2806. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the norms fixed by Government for payment of bonus to the Central Government employees; and

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on payment of bonus to such employees for the years 1983-84 to 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Bonus is sanctioned to Central Government employees on the basis of actual emoluments upto and including Rs. 2500/- per month. The maximum amount, however, is restricted to the amount admissible to those employees drawing emoluments of Rs. 1600/- per month; for those drawing monthly emoluments of more than Rs. 1600/- per month but not exceeding Rs. 2500/- per month, bonus is calculated as if the emoluments were Rs. 1600/- per month.

(b) The expenditure incurred on payment of bonus for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 is approximately Rs. 300 crores, Rs. 344 crores and Rs. 430 crores respectively.

Political asylum sought for by Indian nationals abroad

2807. SHRI AJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 8,000 Indian nationals have gone to West Germany to seek political asylum during the year 1986 and over 30,000 Indian nationals have sought 'political asylum' within the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any exercise to find out the reasons for which Indian nationals are seeking political asylum in other countries, such as U.K., France, USA, Canada etc.; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) According to information available with the Government, the figures of Indian nationals who have sought political asylum in West Germany, during the last three years (Calendar-wise) are as follows :

1984	1,083
1985	4,471
1986 (uptil August)	4,979

(b) Information gathered by us indicate that Indian nationals generally seek political asylum in order to circumvent the normal prescribed procedure for entry and residence in these countries in view of their desire to improve their economic well-being.

(c) The governments concerned have been informed that any claim of persecution or discrimination by these Indian citizens is without substance as adequate Constitutional and Administrative channels exist for the redressal of genuine grievances.

Amenities to Indian tourists visiting the Soviet Union

2808. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has given some assurance to give concessional air fares and to provide such other amenities to the Indian tourists which will make their stay in the Soviet Union more comfortable; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) No assurance has been received from

the Soviet Union for establishment of concessional air fare between India and Soviet Union. Air fares between the two countries are determined by the existing bilateral arrangements between the two Governments. Indian tourists visit Soviet Union in terms of agreements between Intourist on the one hand and various approved Indian travel agents on the other. No special amenities are provided to them.

Swimming pool of Hotel Samrat

2809. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in May, 1986 a girl from some foreign country was drowned in the swimming pool of the ITDC Hotel Samrat due to the poor visibility of unfiltered water in the Swimming Pool;

(b) whether it is a fact that no action has so far been taken against the officials who were responsible for poor quality/ unfiltered water in the Swimming Pool and also due to the defective filtration plant at the Pool for months together;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is only one life-guard on the Swimming Pool and no life saving equipments are available at the Pool till date; and

(d) if the reply of parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative what action is being taken against the officials responsibile for above lapses and improving the facilities and manpower at the Swimming Pool ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) In May, 1986 three Tibetan girls accompanied by a Jordanian boy came to Hotel Samrat Swimming Pool. They began swmming with the support of a lifebuoy. The life-guard at the pool warned them against going to the deep side of the pool. However, the boy took one girl to the deep side where she slipped from his hands and was drowned. The life guard made all efforts to save her but could not succeed. The Pool is checked regularly to ensure cleanliness of water. The question of taking action against any official does not arise as none of the officials was found to be negligent.

(c) and (d) All life saving equipments have been provided at the Pool. Services of an experienced security guard from Navy are being utilised to assist the lifeguard appointed at the Pool.

Deposits and advances of Banks in different States

2810. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the deposits and advances of Public Sector Banks of different States in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the percapita bank advances in backward States like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh continue to be much lower than of developed States like Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (c) Deposits, Advances and percapita advances of public sector banks as at the end of March, 1986 are set out in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

The Level of Credit : Deposit Ratio depends, among other things, on the level of economic activity and the demand for credit in a particular State or Region. These in turn are affected by factors such as regular availability of power, infrastructure and investments in agricultural and industrial sectors.

Reduction of regional imbalance in economic development has been one of the objectives pursued by the Government and in that context the Government have been emphasising the need for greater effort and attention by the public sector banks in assisting productive ventures in the relatively under-banked regions/States. The thrust of the branch expansion efforts is also directed towards improving coverage in relatively underbanked regions. Regional Rural Banks are being set up in identified areas where the banking infrastructure is inadequate, cooperative structure is weak and credit gap is large.